

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 SCI-06 OPIC-12 IO-14 SAB-01 DRC-01 /173 W

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R 291820Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9639

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I E L GEORGETOWN 0662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, GY

SUBJECT: GOG VIEWS ON WASHINGTON MFM

REF: STATE 085239

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER RAMPHAL DESCRIBED WASHINGTON MFM AS QUALIFIED SUCCESS, IN SPITE OF HIS ADVANCE MISGIVINGS OVER HOLDING MEETING SO SOON AFTER MEXICO. HE BELIEVES MOMENTUM HAS BEEN MAINTAINED TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF BOTH LA AND US

OBJECTIVES, AND THAT LONGER INTERVAL UNTIL NEXT MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES WILL TEST SERIOUSNESS OF INTENT ON BOTH SIDES. HE SAID GOG ENCOURAGED BY ITS INITIAL EXPOSURE TO MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS AND WILL CONTINUE TO
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SEEK CLOSER UNDERSTANDING WITH LA NEIGHBORS. END SUMMARY.

1. GOG FONMIN RAMPHIL RETURNED FROM US ON APRIL 26. HE INVITED ME TO HIS HOME NOON APRIL 27 FOR GET-ACQUAINTED CHAT, DURING WHICH HE SPENT MOST OF THE HOUR WE WERE TOGETHER DESCRIBING HIS PARTICIPATION IN MEXICO AND WASHINGTON MFM'S.

2. RAMPHAL WAS RELAXED BU OBVIOUSLY SOMEWHAT FATIGUED FROM HIS MARATHON TRAVELS OF THE PASTTHREE MONTHS. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER HE COULD KEEP UP THE PACE AND REMARKED CASUALLY THAT NINE YEARS OF SERVING IN THE CABINET WAS PERHAPS APPROACHING THE LIMIT OF USEFUL PUBLIC SERVICE.

3. TURNING TO THE WASHINGTON MFM, RAMPHAL SAID HE HAD HAD SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT HOLDING THIS METTING SO SOON AFTER MEXICO. HE WAS FEARFUL THAT THE FONMINS WOULD HAVE HAD TOO LITTLE TIME TO DIGEST THE RESULTS OF TLATELOLCO AND TO WORK OUT THE AGREEMENTS AND MECHANISMS WHICH HE FELT WERE NECESSARY TO PRODUCE MEANINGFUL FORWARD MOVEMENT AT A SECOND MEETING. MOREOVER, HE WAS AFRAID THAT THE SUBJECT OF CUBA WOULD SURFACE IN A WAY WHICH WOULD PUT GUYANA IN AN EMBARRASSING QUANDARY SINCE HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO DESIRE TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE USG ON THIS SUBJECT AND YET THEY HAD WELL-KNOWN VIEWS WHICH HE COULD HARDLY FAIL TO PUT ON RECORD. RAMPHAL SAID THAT AFTER MUCH SOUL-SEARCHING IT WAS DECIDED THAT HE WOULD TAKE A MUCH LESS ACTIVE ROLE AT WASHINGTON AND ONLY SPEAK WHEN ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

4. THE PRELIMINARY SESSION AT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY DID LITTLE TO ASSUAGE HIS FEARS. RAMPHAL SAID IT WAS APPARENT THAT ARGENTINE FONMIN VIGNES WAS SET ON ASSERTING A LEADING POSITION FOR HIS COUNTRY AND THAT OTHERS WERE DETERMINED TO AIR WHAT HE CONSIDERED PROBLEMS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE , E.G., THE BRAZILIAN COMPLAINT ON ITS SHOE EXPORTS TO THE US AND THE SIMILAR COLOMBIAN COMPLAINT ON CUT FLOWERS. HE THEREFORE SAW LITTLE CHANCE FOR A GENUINE DISCUSSION OF THE TOPIC HE CONSIDERED DESERVING OF TOP PRIORITY, I.E. THE ROLE OF THE HEMISPHERE IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

5. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS PROBABLY A MISTAKE TO HAVE ENTRUSTED THE OAS AMBASSADORS WITH THE TASK OF WORKING OUT THE PRELIMINARY CONFIDENTIAL

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AGENDA AND MECHANICS OF THE MFM WITH ASS'T. SECY. KUBISCH. HE SAID THE FORMER ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY BROAD-GAUGED AND LACK AUTHORITY FOR A JOB OF THIS NATURE.

6. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, ACCORDING TO RAMPHAL, BOTH THE LA'S AND US MUTUALLY LOWERED THEIR SIGHTS AND REACHED ACCOMMODATION ON BASIS OF WHICH HE DEEMED WASHINGTON A QUALIFIED SUCCESS. HE FELT THE US HAD DEFUSED CUBA ISSUE, WHILE ARGENTINA AND MEXICO

HAD MANEUVERED ADROITLY TO PURSUE THEIR OBJECTIVE VIA CONSENSUS MECHANISM, WHICH RAMPHAL BELIEVES WILL VIRTUALLY GUARANTEE CUBAN PRESENCE AT BUENOS AIRES. RAMPHAL THOUGHT SENATE RESOLUTION ON PANAMA WAS POORLY TIMED BUT FORTUNATELY HAD NOT PROVOKED A CONFRONTATION, THANKS TO GOOD JUDGEMENT ON PART OF ALL MFM PARTICIPANTS. HE THOUGHT TOPICS ASSIGNED TO WORKING GROUPS FOR STUDY WERE GOOD CHOICES BOTH FROM STANDPOINT OF NEED FOR MORE DELIBERATE STUDY AND OF PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING RESULTS. HE REGRETTED THAT, AS HE HAD FORESEEN, THERE WAS TOO LITTLE TIME FOR UNREHEARSED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON TOPICS SUCH AS HEMISPHERE ROLE IN GLOBAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE, BUT WAS GRATIFIED THAT AT LEAST SOME ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO BROADER POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

7. LOOKING AHEAD, RAMPHAL OBSERVED THAT WHILE SECY KISSINGER'S INITIATIVE IN SEEKING MORE DYNAMIC AND FLEXIBLE FORUM FOR DEALING WITH HEMISPHERIC PROBLEMS HAD MADE CONSIDERABLY HEADWAY SINCE LAST OCTOBER, THE REAL TEST LIES AHEAD. THE INTERVAL BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH 1975 WILL DISCLOSE HOW SERIOUS ARE INTENTIONS OF BOTH US AND LA NATIONS. THIS APPLIES NOT ONLY TO PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC TASKS DELEGATED BY MFM TO WORKING GROUPS BUT ALSO TO OVERALL TENOR OF US-LA INTERACTION. IN THIS CONNECTION HE IMPLIED SOME SKEPTICISM THAT WE MIGHT DRIFT AWAY FROM MULTILATERAL AND BACK TOWARDS BILATERAL DEALINGS.

8. AS FAR AS GOG IS CONCERNED, RAMPHAL SAID HE AND PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THEIR INITIAL EXPOSURE TO MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS. IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID GOG INTENDS TO FOLLOW GRADUALIST APPROACH TOWARDS CLOSER UNDERSTANDING AND INTERACTION WITH THEIR LA NEIGHBORS. SEE SEPTEL ON OAS MEMBERSHIP QUESTION. KREBS

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